

It is therefore again respectfully submitted that Ning et al. is not available as a reference in the subject application. The filing date of Ning et al. is June 1, 2001 whereas the subject application bears an effective filing date of August 18, 2000. Accordingly, the rejection is without merit. In addition, based upon the provisional application even without claiming priority therefrom, it is readily apparent that the subject invention was "ready for patenting" prior to the filing date of Ning et al. in view of the Supreme Court Decision in Pfaff v. Wells Electronics, 525 U.S. 55 (U.S. 1998).

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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